

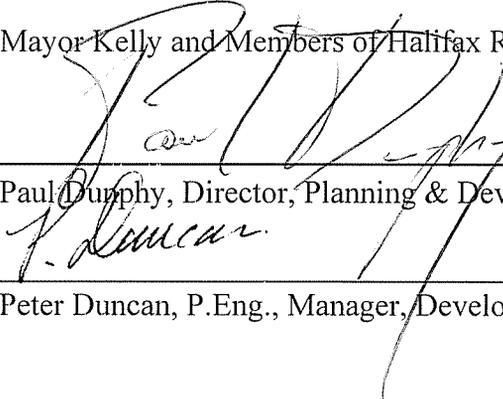


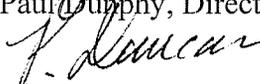
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Halifax Regional Council  
December 17, 2002

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
Paul Murphy, Director, Planning & Development Services

  
Peter Duncan, P.Eng., Manager, Development Engineering

**DATE:** December 4, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Citizens' Focus Group - Review of Blasting By-Law B-300

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## INFORMATION REPORT

### ORIGIN

At the November 26, 2002 meeting of Halifax Regional Council, a work plan was presented for the review of By-Law B-300, which included public consultation. Staff are finalizing details of the public consultation program, and are requesting Council's assistance in selecting a Citizens' Focus Group.

### BACKGROUND

The following is a summary of the work plan which was presented to Council:

- Research and "bench-marking" analysis with other municipalities, which has been completed.
- Consultation with industry and the public, and an audit of blast monitoring procedures to be carried out over the months of December, 2002 and January, 2003. The audit of monitoring procedures will be done by a consultant.
- When the consultation and audit are complete, the Council education component will begin prior to recommendations being brought forward to Council in February, 2003.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Consultation with Industry**

The Industry Focus Group will have representation from the Urban Development Institute, the Nova Scotia Home Builders Association, and the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association. This group will also have representation from the blasting industry. It should be noted however that the blasting industry does not have a formal association to represent their collective views.

Although not yet confirmed, it is very likely the Industry Focus Group will also have representatives from the Nova Scotia Construction Association, the Nova Scotia Consulting Engineers Association, the Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Labour, as well as the insurance industry.

### **Public Consultation**

A Citizens' Focus Group will also be formed. The purpose of the group will be two-fold:

- review and confirm issues which need to be addressed during the review of the by-law;
- make suggestions and propose solutions to the issues.

The Focus Group should be comprised of approximately eight to ten citizen representatives. This group will meet several times during December and January. Representatives will ideally be familiar with the nuisance activities associated with blasting, and live in areas that have been subject to frequent and prolonged blasting activities.

In addition, it would be valuable to have representatives who have relevant backgrounds, such as home insurance, claim settlement, technical sciences, etc.

Councillors are requested to forward names of individuals who are interested in participating and who they feel would make a positive contribution to the process. Names of individuals can be submitted to Peter Duncan, Planning & Development Services at 490-6252 by Friday, December 20, 2002.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

N/A

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Peter Duncan, P. Eng., Manager, Development Engineering 490-6252